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No. 112

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DAN MILLER of Florida).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 9, 2002.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAN MILLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. MONAHAN, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5010. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 5010) "An Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes." requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. INOUE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REID, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BOND, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. GREGG, and Mrs. HUTCHISON to the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 351. An act to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to reduce the quantity of mer-

cury in the environment by limiting the use of mercury fever thermometers and improving the collection and proper management of mercury, and for other purposes.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority leader, the minority leader or the minority whip limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) for 5 minutes.

HONORING COMMANDER MASSOUD

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, today is the first anniversary of the murder of Commander Massoud, a leader of the anti-Taliban forces in northern Afghanistan. Two days before the attack on the United States, bin Laden's terrorists, posing as journalists, killed Commander Massoud. They blew him up. The Taliban and the al Qaeda were free from their most effective opponent, and the world lost a champion.

Those of us who dedicated ourselves to eliminating communism from this world know what a great debt that we owe to Commander Massoud. It was his courage, his tenacity and skills in battle that played an indispensable role in the outcome of that global fight between good and evil known as the Cold War.

I first began communications with Commander Massoud when he sent his brother to see me when I worked at the White House in the 1980s under Ronald Reagan. At that time Commander

Massoud was already a legend. His courage and wisdom served his own people well. It also inspired freedom-loving people throughout the world, and let me admit to that I was one of those who was inspired by Commander Massoud. It was my honor to have communicated with him over the years as well as to go and meet him in Afghanistan about 5 years ago, meet him in one of his mountain retreats, one of his mountain holdouts, and strategize with him on how to free Afghanistan from the grip of the Taliban.

Commander Massoud, along with the other leaders of the resistance against Soviet occupation, leaders like Abdul Haq, were heroes in the truest sense of the word. Massoud was never defeated by those Soviet troops during the long battle for Afghanistan. It is unfortunate that after the Soviets were defeated that chaos and a lack of support from Afghanistan's Western friends prevented Massoud and others from unifying and democratizing their country. Americans can be proud, however, that we helped Commander Massoud and the Afghan freedom fighters, people like Abdul Haq, as I say, in their fight to thwart Soviet aggression, but we should be ashamed that we walked away after that great victory and left them with no resources to rebuild their country.

It is also sad that the United States, under President Clinton's leadership, never provided Massoud or the other freedom fighters what they needed to prevent the tyranny of the Taliban from dominating Afghanistan. But as we know, Commander Massoud was able to stand like a giant. Like the Soviet troops before them, the Taliban were never able to defeat Commander Massoud.

Today as we try to rebuild a peaceful Afghanistan where people can raise their families and live without fear, Commander Massoud is sorely missed. Although he made mistakes, and all

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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